

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement • 20p

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HOT STRIKING SUMMER SPECIAL



THE SIZZLE of SUMMER



July 17th will see the biggest strike for decades in Britain! 1.3 million low paid council workers will down tools in a stoppage for higher wages that will unite workers in schools, libraries and council offices with street cleaners, refuse collectors, meals-on-wheels staff, and many others around the country.

That evening RMT workers on London Underground will also start a 24hrs stoppage that will paralyse the transport system in a dispute over safety issues arising from New Labour's part privatisation of the tube.

Both strikes are a growing sign of the new determination amongst rank and file trade union members to fight back after 5 years of Labour betrayals. Five years

which have seen an increase in relative poverty and the fragmentation of public services, like the NHS and the rail network. Meanwhile Labour's fat cat friends have made a mint through back door privatisation schemes such as Public Private Partnership and the Private Finance Initiative.

The strikes come on the back of disputes involving fire fighters, teachers, further education staff, posties, air traffic controls and train guards.

Labour has also been visibly shaken by the campaign led by the Socialist Alliance to democratise the political fund. This is the subsidy the unions pay to Labour and still accounts for the largest slice of their funding. Already the RMT and Unison have cut their contributions and the campaign has also won support within the FBU, Aslef and the CWU.

Wednesday's council strike sees the first joint action by Britain's 3 biggest public sector unions. The GMB, T&G and Unison all voted decisively for a walk out. The last time a strike on this scale took place was in 1982.

The strikes should be welcomed by anybody who supports the battle against low pay. 20% of all council employees earn less than £5 per hour including 90% of part-time women workers. Two thirds get less than £13,000 per year and yet they are expected to accept a rise of 3% whilst council leaders have awarded them-



selves rises averaging 60% over the last year.

The great danger at the moment is that Wednesday's strike will remain a one-off. Whilst workers are allowed to show their anger and let off steam, no real gains will have been achieved. If the current union leaders remain in charge of the struggle, this remains a clear possibility. Their position rests on their ability to compromise with the state and balance the interest of their own members with that of the government.

To avoid this, rank and file union members must come to the fore. The strikes must be led by strike committees elected amongst workers in every workplace and co-ordinated across the various unions. Workers must organise now to ensure that effective picketing takes place to stop the scabs from getting in and the strikes should be spread to include low paid workers in the private sector and in non unionised workplaces.

Only by keeping up the pressure and refusing to compromise with anything less than their demands can the strikers stop the Labour government in its tracks. But to really put a halt to Labour's pro-business agenda and to win meaningful gains for workers the strikes should be used as a launch pad to build a real rank and file workers movement based on shop floor organisation and class solidarity.

By KULDIP, SOUTH LONDON

CASUALISATION KILLS

On the 24 April 1998 24 year old Simon Jones, with only a few minutes training, began work at Shoreham docks unloading cargo. Two hours later his head was crushed by a crane grab and he died. Simon had been on a year's leave from Sussex University and had taken the job because he felt insecure on the dole and about whether his benefits would keep coming.



Simon was a victim of casualisation. This is the practice of employing people for very low wages, and giving them practically no training or employment rights. Casual workers receive no sick or holiday pay and can be fired easily. Companies employ casual workers for the simple reason that it is cheaper than employing well trained workers (or training new ones) and having to pay proper wages.

But what about the dangers of this practice for the employers? Surely if they give a worker a dangerous job and an accident occurs they will get into trouble and, in the case of serious injury or death, face prison sentences? This isn't the case in Britain, however. The company that had employed Simon, Euromin Ltd, received only a fine. As Tim Jones, Simon's brother said, "The judge has decided Simon's life is only worth fifty thousand pounds", which to these corporate giants is a drop in the ocean. With only an average of 1 in 20 serious injuries at work being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive, and actual real legal action rare, companies can afford to keep using casualised labour. As far as they're concerned, making large profits is more important than the safety and lives of their employees.

In 2000 there were 442 work related deaths in Britain, not including the many serious injuries. When elected in 1997, Labour promised to change the law on manslaughter

to include a corporate killing clause. This clause would mean that in cases such as Simon's the actual company directors and those in charge would be more accountable and could receive serious prison sentences. However, despite the promises and constant campaigning of groups like the Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, the corporate killing clause has not been introduced yet. This is because casualisation is good for employers and the capitalist economy. It provides a quick source of cheap labour for employers and means that they don't have to bother with sick pay or pensions.

There is no doubt that reforms like the introduction of a corporate killing law are important, but they can only go so far. When questioned about the law in a confidential survey one leader of business, stated that "If you tell me there has to be someone on the Board who is ultimately responsible as a fall guy, we can put someone in place in order that they can be easily fired and replaced". This complete disregard for measures that are meant to save lives is disgusting but, more importantly, it illustrates the fact that as long as there is money to be made, casualisation will continue and companies will keep putting their employees in danger. Only so much can be done within this system and to solve the problem we need a world run for people, not profit.

FILM TOUR:

for dates see

www.simonjones.org.uk.

Or organise your own event! To get a 25 minute video for £5 incl. postage contact Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2,600, Brighton, BN2 2DX

BY ANTONIO IN RUISLIP

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

Florence, Italy. The Tuscany Valley: land of good food, good wine and aart. But come November it will be a hotbed of anti-capitalist activists coming together from across Europe for the European Social Forum. And we are going there with World Revo!

So what are these social forums? They are described as an 'open space' to be filled by the participants, or referred to as the 'movement of the movements'. It is an attempt to co-ordinate the struggles of all progressive campaigns, for ultimately we are fighting the same enemy. Whether you are struggling to stop the council selling off your home, fighting for free education or fighting the racist policies of the state – the enemy is capitalism, and only when it is overthrown will we have social justice.

Social forums are all the rage. The World Social Forum (WSF) began two years ago in Porto Alegre as a counter to the World Economic Forum (WEF). The WEF controls global capital and the WSF co-ordinates global resistance. The first WSF attracted over 10,000 activists; and the second over 60,000. The success was thrilling.

Born out of a call for regional social forums from the World Social Forum, the European Social Forum (ESF) is a meeting of all the social movements from across the continent: socialist, anarchist, no borders,

social justice, trade unionist, anti-racist, anti-war, squatters, and many more. It will be a meeting of the minds from the broad spectrum of the anti-cap movement. And also a time for ACTION!

It is significant that the ESF will be held in Italy for that is the birthplace of social forums in Europe. It was the Genoa Social Forum that orchestrated the coming together of activists for the protests against the G8 (the world's richest, most powerful nations). After the death of Carlo Giuliani, an activist shot dead by the Italian police, and the other events in Genoa, the social forum movement spread like wildfire across Italy, drawing in such diverse elements as church groups, ngos, the trade unions and Rifondazione Comunista (communist party in Italy), as well as local campaigning groups, etc. It was the social forum movement that organised the dismantling of a Bologna refugee detention centre, hundreds of thousands demonstrating against the imperialist war in Afghanistan and the hundreds of volunteers that are going to Palestine to give aid to the Palestinians.

The European Social Forum will be a battle of the minds. Already the French reformist wing are trying to allow war-voting ministers from the French cabinet a place at the head table, like they did in Porto Alegre. Already the trade unions are trying to water down the talk of strike action across borders.

Who will win? The Reformists or the Revolutionaries? We will be fighting on the side of the revolutionaries. The prize? The direction of the anti-capitalist movement. Come with us – if you think you're 'ard enough.

Contact REVO 07951 493 232 or info@worldrevolution.org.uk

OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

In the 1930's Aldous Huxley wrote his famous novel *Brave New World*, which was set in London and explored a world of a future completely controlled. His fantastic society, where babies are decanted from test tubes and consumerism is embedded in infancy, is the modern capitalist's dream. Mass production enabled products to be made at little to no cost to the producer, and children were trained in their sleep (called "hypnopaedia") to buy, buy, buy.

Does it sound familiar? Huxley's book was intended as a warning against the increasing power of the capitalists, yet his intuitive caveat was unheeded. The modern US suburb, for example, has been reduced by capitalism to a conglomerate of shoddy houses constructed under poor planning and using worthless materials, often taking only two weeks from foundation to shingles. It causes tenants to spend thousands of dollars on repairs that shouldn't have to be made. The ancient Spartans built homes and materials that lasted countless centuries, while today a house or apartment is only truly good... well, never.

In the United States, over fifty percent of financial assets (or capital) is "earned" by less than one percent of the population. That one percent includes the US government, Microsoft founder and CEO Bill Gates, Nike's CEO Phil Knight, and (used to include) former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay. Microsoft quickly became the most illustrious computer company worldwide, and for their unmitigated gall and insatiable greed tangled with the US government who chastised Microsoft for forming a monopoly in the computer business. 'Tis a bit hypocritical of the government, I think, when one considers the actions they have taken.

Most recently: Upon his inauguration in 2001, President George W. Bush proposed

a series of campaigns to promote the "welfare of the nation" or some such crap. These campaigns outlined plans for tax cuts, humanitarian projects...the whole gamut of political posturing. One of the campaigns on Bush's agenda was funding for religious groups across the nation, not only imposing certain discrimination against those who would be looked over, but also creating monsters in the church.

However, disaster struck the capitalist icon, the World Trade Centre, on September 11. In the weeks and months following, the first question on everyone's mind was when Wall Street would reopen and if there be a drop in numbers. Such caring consumers...

Of course, the government made a pitiful attempt to appease the people whose loved ones were injured and killed in the multiple crashes or in the collapse of the buildings. Their idea of "compensation" - \$200,000. I can't speak for others, but if I were to lose a loved one in something of that magnitude, no amount of money would begin to replace them. With that pit-tance, the government's message was clear and simple: We expect you to replace the people you've lost with expensive toys and the latest hi-tech gear... All paid by us, of course, because we were too far up our own asses to see this coming. Excuse me while I vomit...

The idiots in high places don't stop there, oh no! Next is the... *drumroll* WAR ON TERRORISM. Hundreds of ground forces and air troops joined those from other countries (including Britain) to do little else but drop bombs and shoot at dust clouds, killing innocent people whilst creating a demand for more weapons. Men and women I know are facing the risk of sacrifice to this 'cause', behind which

lies capitalism's open, salivating mouth.

From birth, those in the working class are raised to believe in that unattainable, whimsical and opportunistic American dream, and convinced to slave away in the hope of being able to afford an expensive car, an even more expensive house, and the latest in digital mall spas with self-cleaning 6-disc DVD and free facial entertainment.

America has become so swept up in its "politics" (side note: "poli" is Latin for "many" and "tics" are bloodsucking organisms), its "foreign policy" and its eternal battle to dominate a capitalist world that, instead of a democratic republic, it is an oligarchic plutocracy – a government run by a few wealthy people.

It is 2002. I am an American by birth, not by choice. My entire life I have been taught that this grand ol' country the US of A is the Land of Opportunity. Hmm, let's see. I have opportunities! I have the opportunity to be raped and murdered in a dark alley because I'm a girl. I have the opportunity to spend 35 years in a dead end job with an asshole of a boss, working 80 hours a week, making 10 dollars an hour, which isn't enough to raise two children in the slums - all because my name isn't Bush, Rockefeller, or Kennedy.

I also have the opportunity to stand up and refuse to be devoured by the dragons of capitalism. I still have the right to work for a world where quality is treasured over profits and budgets. I can save countless children from dying in sweatshops. We all have the opportunity to unite and stop capitalism dead in its tracks. We can work together and finally make this world worth living in.

BY ARIENE IN
OH, USA



Our schools are increasingly becoming targets for corporations to place their brands and sell their products to impressionable children.

Whether its through logos on mouse mats or exercise books, corporate sponsorship for school expansions, or blatant poster advertising in the corridors, your school is selling you to the capitalist companies that are becoming even more dangerously powerful in our country.

What's the big deal, you may think. Well I for one firmly believe that schools should be a place free of adverts – schools should be all about teaching students to make their own choices, not coercing us to buy things we don't need! The fact that my own school has been whoring itself in many ways is why I'm writing this for REVO.

As part of their recent advertising campaign centred around the World Cup, Nike went round schools (including mine) taking over P.E. lessons for a whole day at a time. Pupils could play three-a-side "nike scorpion" matches in pitches surrounded by Nike logos, and were all given free Nike t-shirts afterwards. We all know what an awful company Nike is – so it is completely hypocritical of it to be going into schools to brand 12-14 year old children when children of that age cannot go to school in countries like Vietnam because they are working in Nike factories! Of course we would expect nothing less of scum like Nike, but the fact that neither the government nor any head teachers have picked up on this hypocrisy and barred them from schools is extremely worrying.



Secondly, because of Tory Blair's fetish for private money in everything public, any school that wants money to improve the facilities and the education that they can provide, must get at least one-third of it from capitalist corporations. My school, in its bid to become a science-specialist school (which is a ridiculous scheme in itself), approached GlaxoSmithKline, and are to receive £50,000 from them for new computers.

The fact that a disgusting pharmaceutical company like Glaxo are allowed anywhere near a school is a complete disgrace. Glaxo are not only a major customer of animal-torturers like Huntingdon Life Sciences, but they are also responsible for the continued suffering and slow, painful death of many AIDS-sufferers in the southern hemisphere. They refuse to sell their latest, most-advanced AIDS medication at affordable prices to people in Africa, Asia and South America; and when the Brazilian government decided to reproduce their own versions of the drugs, Glaxo was right up there with the others suing Brazil and calling for economic sanctions on a government trying to save the lives of its people! Now it is only a matter of time before GlaxoSmithKline will be distributing samples of their products to the kids at our school, and gaining a captive audience for a very low cost.

Glaxo

Commercialisation of schools

Is your school selling you?

The latest outrage has been the erection of large posters of paid advertising in the corridors of the school. This grotesque selling-out of the students without a word of warning or consultation may simply be down to our Thatcher-esque head teacher's greed, but what followed was even more shocking. The shared disgust of some students and teachers lead to the formation of an "Ethics Forum" in our sixth-form to debate these troubling issues. However we were forbidden from doing anything constructive, as the big giant head banned us from canvassing teachers for support, informing parents of what is going on, or starting any petitions. And with the majority of teachers newly-qualified and on short-term contracts and students striving to get good UCAS references, it seems likely that our opposition to the hideous intrusion into our school will go unnoticed and unheard.

The one piece of action we have taken has had limited success. Inspired by movements such as Culture Jamming and Subvertising, we decided to try our own hand at it. With posters advertising a singer called Amy Studt up, an alterna-

tive was quickly rustled up, and with the help of Paint Shop Pro and some super-glue, one of the posters has been ruined, covered in flyers saying "Why buy music when you can get it for free? Kazaa.com."

To see the problems of allowing the capitalist corporations to gain a foothold in our education one need only look to America where this has been going on for years. Many American schools have something called "Channel 1 TV" – a company that provides free TVs for school and educational programming, interspersed with adverts that must be watched, as the volume and off switches are disabled when they are on! Companies sell you to other companies: "If you own this child at an early age, you can own this child for years to come." – that's the former president of Kids-R-Us, an American clothing store, talking. In America Coca-Cola and Pepsi compete to be the exclusive soft drinks provider for individual schools, and Nike and Adidas sign exclusive deals to kit out school sports teams. In return, students who have consciences are disciplined and even expelled for speaking out.

If your school is becoming the lackey of the capitalist system, and you are unhappy at being sold out by the teachers who are entrusted with your care, then take action. The capitalist scum are only too willing use force to stop things they are opposed to – just look at Nike's beefy security "force". We must take the same approach – if there are adverts in your school, cover them up or rip them down. Refuse to answer questions in textbooks asking you how much change you get

from a Happy Meal. Don't accept samples from the capitalist corporations that think they can buy you, and we will win! Related links:

www.adbusters.org
www.subvertise.org

www.commercialfree.org
www.socialisteducation.org.uk
www.ase.org.uk/publish/jnews/ssr/bed-ersep98.html
www.aeforum.org/issues/in_school.html
www.healthmatters.org.uk/stories/rayner44.html
www.cgc.org.uk/publications/pages/commercialismschools.html

By tommy IN wemBLEy

You live in Britain so it may not happen to you, but let's say that the government decided not to tolerate you. Maybe, like the Kurds in Turkey, your ethnicity is not tolerated; you are denied the right to teach and speak your own language and have no national homeland. Or, let's say that you're persecuted for your religious beliefs, like Jews in Iran. Or, different again, maybe it's war which is making your life less than pleasant. Given these situations, it might well be reasonable for you to want to leave your country of residence.

In truth, you have no choice. Circumstances force you to smuggle yourself abroad, packed into the back of a lorry, on top of a train, in the undercarriage of a plane; clinging to anything

that will move you away from your persecution. It's hard to imagine. But now let's say you've beaten the odds and made it to the fourth richest country in the world, a nation which values political, racial and religious freedom.

Given the ordeal you've been through to get to Britain, and the fact that you'd much rather have stayed unmolested in your home country than be forced out, it would be fair at this point to consider yourself a refugee. Yet according to the British government you aren't. No, the invention of the term 'asylum seeker' denies you even that status. It transforms you from the being the product of a situation outside of your control, a victim, to someone with active political aspirations, someone trying to get something off the government, off the

people - a scrounger. The government makes you work to gain the auspicious status of refugee. You are effectively imprisoned and have to fill in a series of forms in English, whether you speak it or not, and prove that you've suffered enough to be officially called a refugee. And if Blunkett decides that whilst you may have been persecuted, that the persecution wasn't severe enough, then you will be returned to that persecution.

People forced from their home, enduring a life threatening journey to get to safety, should not then be forced to prove their right to political asylum. Britain must provide this safety and must immediately recognise the status of refugees. OPEN THE BORDERS!

BY ROBIN FROM BIRMINGHAM

Justice for the Burnley prisoners!

Mohammed Munir was sentenced to four and a half years in prison for throwing two stones. His crime? Defending his community from racists - the fascists and the police. Hundreds of Asian youth are facing a similar fate as the state responds to the riots in Oldham, Burnley and Bradford last summer.

46 people from Bradford have been prosecuted and more cases are currently being tried. All of them pleaded guilty on legal advice and would normally have gotten 10 months instead of 4 years. One guy was sentenced to 11 months for picking up two stones but not throwing them!! Whilst another youth got 18 months for holding a stick!!

All this contrasts markedly with the sentences given to white men for their part in the Burnley riots. Their average sentence was 2 years 2 months less than half that given to the Asian youth in Bradford. Yet even the judge admitted they were responsible for starting the riot after they gathered outside a pub and started chanting racist abuse. They then moved off into the street, attacking two Asian taxi drivers and smashing and burning Asian shops and restaurants.

It was only after the police "escorted" the group to the edge of a mainly Asian area that Asian youths came out to defend their communities. They knew the police would not protect them after suffering years of racism and harassment at the hands of the cops. In one case in Oldham the police were called after the fascists attacked a house with a mother and her child inside; when they arrived 2 hours later they arrested 2 Asians instead.

Asians are now experiencing the racism of the criminal "justice" system. The courts are now systematically cracking down on those who take action to defend themselves and their communities. The judge in the Bradford cases has openly stated he is not interested in what people actually got up to on the day. He said, "It must be made crystal clear to everyone that on such tumultuous and riotous occasions, each individual who takes an active part...is guilty of an extremely grave offense simply by being in a public place and being engaged in a crime against the peace. It would be wholly unreal, therefore, for me to have regard to the specific acts which you committed." So that's good old British justice for yer.

But people aren't taking it lying down. Justice campaigns have been set up in Burnley and Bradford to build up a case of self-defence (rather than pleading guilty), and to raise money and awareness.

Revo says:

**Drop the charges - self-defence is no offense!
Release the political prisoners!**

by simon in
sheffield

AXIS OF LARD

The Police have opened a shop near my house in Brixton. I have been trying to work out what this might be about. The first time I saw them, there were eight of them standing in what used to be a betting shop, looking a bit at a loss for what to do with themselves. The next time, they had set up a fold-up table just inside the doorway with four bottles of Lilt on it... intriguing.

ing. Was it a fundraising idea? Soon afterwards there were A4 sheets of paper in the window saying "Operation Loughborough", the Lilt was gone (flogged to pay for the posters?), and there were fresh faced young officers sitting at the table with clipboards, looking edgy and waiting... for what?

Then it clicked - this was shortly after Bush had announced that not only should the civilised world wage War on Terror™, but on **FAT**, too! The

Where's the Bacon?

by LC, who's up
against the man

"Whoever said workers in uniform??? Petty Bourgeois scum more like..."

Pigs, rozzers, filth, vermin, scum, the police. The strike-breaking, demonstration-attacking antics of the police haven't endeared them to our movement over the years. Add to that the huge levels of corruption, deaths in custody and generally shitty attitudes - these reasons have made them an enemy of the working class on council estates, in the inner cities, and all over the UK.

Let's face it, the police suck. I thought I'd write this article after I had the pleasure of having a few of them jump on me a couple of weeks back while I was on the No Sweat World Cup demo. The police tactics on the day were aggressive, but this came as no surprise to those of us who have been on just a handful of demos, let alone the seasoned anti-capitalists among us.

The fact is that the police are trained - indoctrinated is a better word - to treat us like this. Anyone who was there on the day could see that the constables who were pushing us all around looked incredibly fearful of us. They are fed a pack of lies about how "violent" and "dangerous" we are to society and gladly swallow it thanks to their

petty bourgeois salaries.

The brain washing can turn normal people into thugs and, worse, corrupt thugs. The "get a result" mentality is a sick euphemism, and translates into producing lies to put innocent people behind bars to satisfy government targets for crime figures.

The fact is that the police are nothing more than tools for a corrupt capitalist state. They are used to suppress dissent and outlaw free and radical thinking. While the hate-spreading Sun and Daily Mail bemoan the ever-increasing crime levels, they offer an absurd and very capitalist solution: giving more power to these corrupt bastards in uniform.

The police have consistently failed to tackle crime since their inception. In fact it is mistaken to think that they ever could. Tackling poverty tackles crime and that is a proven fact. America has so many people in prison because it has such huge levels of poverty; while in Western Europe they have less crime and, what do u know, less (but still obscene) levels of poverty. To overthrow capitalism and begin genuinely tackling crime in a socialist society by eradicating poverty means taking on these agents of the state. **FUCK THE POLICE!!!!**

Guardian had reported that "President George Bush yesterday turned from his war on terror to the war on fat, using his own body as a model for America to get fit," and displayed action fotos of Dubya jogging with his aides,

Obviously Lambeth police had decided to take this opportunity to be seen to be standing shoulder to shoulder with America - the disused betting shop is situated right in the centre of an Axis of Lard, formed by a chip

shop, Caribbean Spice and the Istanbul Kebab House... Sure enough, the chip shop has not opened since. The Police shop is now called a "Community Station" and looks well established - we await stage two of the War on Fat.

One astute Loughborough resident screamed from the pavement into the copshop, 'What have you ever done to make my life better?' You tell them, sista!

by rachel, operation fatbusters



Cooking the books in corporate Oz - it's a long way back to Texas, Dubya, and you'll have to watch that Dick of yours...

In the wake of collapsing US and European stock markets and the Enron and WorldCom scandals, there has been a lot of talk about "corporate governance" and "corporate responsibility". President George Dubya himself made a speech promising to restore public confidence in Corporate America, but his proposed reforms were so ineffective that the stock market delivered its own verdict - with shares plunging almost 2% just hours after his speech. Moreover, he and several of his key officials are up to their necks in exactly the sort of scandals that have caused the current crisis.

What's this all about? Ultimately it's about the way that the

world's bosses run business in the new, globalised world economy - amassing huge amounts of wealth in the process. During the much-vaunted dotcom boom in the 1990s, hundreds of companies with flimsy business ideas and no real income could float on the world's markets and acquire money for investment - by claiming that they were at the forefront of exciting technological developments that would change the face of modern business through the Internet. Actually making money was no longer necessary to attract funds. A few bright and colourful personalities became millionaires - on paper at least - of which Martha Lane Fox of last-minute.com was one of the most well-known.

The bug caught - with many "traditional" big corporations

announcing their own half-baked loss-making Internet ventures to get in on the act. Many more began just hiding losses in their traditional business with dodgy accounting practices - propping up their stock prices by pretending that everything was OK. When, like the directors of Enron and WorldCom, they got caught out, their stock prices plunged and their companies went bankrupt. The courts had busy work trying to decide who was responsible, while the politicians who had been friendly with these same executives suddenly tried to appear whiter-than-white.

What's it got to do with us? After all, it can't be a huge surprise to anti-capitalists that the bosses are corrupt as well as exploitative and murderous. It's certainly an issue for them - when rotten companies go belly-up, the banks and private investors who were gullible enough to put their money into them get fleeced,

while the directors responsible get a big golden handshake when they leave. But the banks and privately wealthy can afford to take a hit. The real losers are ordinary people - the tens of thousands of workers who get laid off for the failures of their employers, and the millions of people whose savings and pensions depend on a healthy stock market.

We should certainly want the corrupt Enron bosses and others like them to go to jail - they have stolen more money than any number of desperate people driven to shoplifting or mugging could ever manage. But we don't care for Bush or anyone else's "reforms" of the way business is run. Ultimately the only way to prevent corruption and incompetence and provide security for all is to take the control of their businesses - and their unearned wealth - off all of them, and place it under workers' control.

LETTERS

Dear Revo,

Hi, this is my first letter so I best tell y'all who I am (like you don't know). I am the great Sparky S. McSparks. So now that's sorted let's get down to the ugly business of revolution.

As I see it, the current efforts to bring about any sort of revolution, be it in human rights, animal rights or government systems, are not working at all. The Nationalists seem to have more chance of gaining power over a country than socialists and the left wing do. Whilst this scares me greatly, it comes as no surprise. The current system of capitalism is far easier for the right to conquer than the left, simply because it is already fascist. This does not mean socialists should try to adapt and use the capitalist system.

Communism, by its very definition, must be brought about by a people's revolution, not by a change of government. Unfortunately, as a lot of you may have experienced, a lot of people are stupid, or it seems that way to me anyway. Maybe they are just arrogant or misguided. But the fact remains, the majority of young people don't even know what capitalism is, let alone communism, and when explained to them they can see nothing wrong with the world we live in. So, we are faced with the problem: how to educate the masses, how to teach them that they have a free mind and must choose for themselves what is right. It's clear that protests aren't working. Only the government takes notice of them, and they're the last people we need. So we need a direct link to the public. The best source I can see for this is television. Either by legal or illegal means, our message must be put across constantly via television.

A single documentary or news article does nothing; it needs to be prime-time BBC1. It has to be screamed in the faces of the children, whispered to the teenager, debated with the adult, and patronised to the granny. The masses must be told what is going on, what alternatives there are and what to do about it. Yes, I'm suggesting pirate television. Yes I'm suggesting a takeover of the airwaves. Yes, I'm suggesting a massive, full-powered, non-stop revolution. There must be no weakening, no Sunday meets and normal working lives 6 other days of the week. It must be now and it must be organised. Current action has done nothing. An organised, mature, intelligent takeover and revolution must be planned and set into action. "What better place than here, what better time than now?"

SPARKY

Dear Revo,

Until quite recently I was a 'normal' youth. I was going to one of the best schools in my town. Every day I was reading a book and much time was spent on learning. I was growing up with capitalistic rules. People asked me: "What would you like to be in the future?" Previously, I wasn't thinking about it. "Director, Manager" - I was answering according to my parents' expectations.

In the course of time, it started getting boring. I started feeling empty...

On September 11th, I came back from school, sat down in armchair and started watching TV. Hearing the shouts of terror and blasphemy at the Islamic address, I started thinking what was the reason of what they did.

After that day, someone important said: "The world would never be

the same again."

From that day on many things have really changed, but not in my environment. The same homeless man is sleeping in my gate, the same old woman at the corner was selling her flowers.

The world has changed - but in me. I've seen through. I've started noticing people who need help. Formerly my parents instructed me that if I

want do something to someone else, I should before do something to myself. Miserable Capitalism! These days, I think firstly about people who live near me.

Many people are saying that 11 September will be a first day of a new millennium. I hope it will bring changes for a better. Maybe we should help this changes. VIVA Revolution!!!

from jarek in poland

REPORT FROM REVO INDONESIA

Between May 27 and June 7, 2002 the Fourth Preparation Committee (Prepcom) for the World Social Sustainable Development (WSSD) conference was held in Bali, Indonesia to prepare for the earth summit this August in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is a committee that has been meeting around the world to prepare for the World Social Sustainable Development (WSSD).

In the past the Prepcom has not been on the side of the third world and developing countries, but firmly in the camp of the International Monetary Fund, the imperialist nations and the World Bank.

Throughout this meeting, there were mass protests against it by the young Indonesians. These protests

workers from all over Indonesia who care for the earth's destiny and want to protect it from the destruction caused by globalisation and capitalism.

Before the Prepcom began, the progressive young people and citizens came together to plan the big demonstration which was held on June 5. It was remarkable to see the everyday Indonesian citizen presenting plans for demonstrations against the state and the Prepcom outcome in an attempt to stop globalisation from coming to Indonesia.

The NGO's present were ready to compromise with the Prepcom delegation, however the young people and the Indonesian citizen chal-

lenged the forum to make it open for all citizens. They put forward ideas

about how to stop globalisation.

The Indonesian left youth organisations view the Prepcom as an act of drama to please the world. In the 'free pulpit of the citizen' from June 1-6th, the left youth organisations, who were determined to stop globalisation, co-ordinated with the left assemblies to take over the NGO's property forum with the name 'Indonesian People's Forum'.

In the morning of June 5, the movement gathered over 5000 people in an amphitheatre near to the Prepcom conference centre. We rallied people together and took to the streets, demonstrating throughout a long march and yelling out 'Stop Globalisation' and 'Boycott the Prepcom'. We didn't do any heavy action on this demonstration because the fucking police were very violent if we got too near to the conference place.

By *mfISTRA*



Bolivia

Evo Morales, head of the coca growers union in Bolivia, has finished second in the presidential elections, but the race has not ended yet. Because no candidate got more than 50 %, he may even become president in the run off between the top 2 candidates on August the 6th!! All to the chagrin of the US.

Morales has been leading the coca farmers in their fight against a US backed campaign to eradicate their crops. He campaigned on an anti-capitalist theme and appeared on a platform with Jose Bove (the French farmer who was imprisoned for trashing McDonalds).

The Americans are furious. They intervened directly in the election when it became clear how well Morales was doing. The US ambassador hinted that if Morales was elected the US would cut aid to Bolivia. This plan seems to have backfired, for most Bolivians are pissed off with US intervention in their country. Under 'Plan Dignity', the US anti-narcotics strategy, the main coca growing region (Chapare) has become a military zone occupied by thousands of soldiers and paramilitaries.

The peasants of Chapare reacted angrily to this attack on their culture and livelihoods. They organised blockades of the roads and mass protests centring on the town of

Cochabamba where crowds attacked the main police station with stones and firecrackers.

Bolivia is South America's poorest country. At least six out of every 10 Bolivians live in poverty; in rural areas the number is nine out of 10. In line with other countries in the region Bolivia was also forced to impose neo-liberal economic policies by the IMF. This has meant opening up the economy to foreign competition, reduced government spending on areas such as health and education, and privatising state owned companies.

The election on the 30th June marks a sea change in politics in Bolivia. Traditionally the rich white minority who own most of the land and control the economy have dominated. Now for the first time the indigenous communities (who make up two thirds of the population) have a significant power base in Congress, controlling 30 % with Morales own party, the Movement Towards Socialism, the second largest group.

Social change cannot be achieved through elections alone, which is why the social movements in Chapare must be spread. Only they can build the revolution from below which is necessary to remove American interference from Bolivia and consign the ruling class to the dustbin of history.

simon from manx

THE ENVIRONMENT

by Lima in Londres nord



Maximum Profit. This is the primary principle of the biggest corporate company in the world, Esso (Exxon Mobil). They are responsible for making the threat of global warming much less of a myth and much more of a near reality. With Esso producing at least \$15 billion profits a year, they have the power to influence and control treaties and sabotage international efforts to solve the growing concern of global warming.

Esso paid for much of President Bush's campaign in his race to be president, and in return he withdrew America from the Kyoto Protocol, which is the only international treaty to combat global warming. As America is the largest polluter in the world contributing 25% of greenhouse gases, it would be useless to combat the threat of global warming without them, no matter how many other countries join the protocol.

We live in a world dominated by multinational companies and they are doing all they can to influence and have a say in government decisions. In the US, companies like Enron and Esso actually wrote the government's energy policy.

It even happens at the UN. The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan - first proposed the Global Compact in an address to the World Economic Forum on 31 January 1999. He challenged world business leaders to help build the social and environmental pillars required to sustain the new global economy and make globalisation work for all the world's people.

The global compact is not going to do any of those things; it is making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The corporate influence at the UN is already too great. UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and UNESCO are partnering with corporations known for human, labour and environmental rights violations. Such partners of the Global Compact and violators of these rights are known to be companies such as Nike, Shell, Rio Tinto, Novartis, BP, Aracruz, BASF, Daimler Chrysler, Bayer and DuPont.

The UN have not paid attention to their own guidelines they have set for this Global Compact as they have included companies which violate human rights which are not eligible for the partnership. As for the other companies that don't face such violations, they are giants of other destructive industries such as oil, chemicals and genetic engineering.

The reason the UN sides with the multinationals is because the UN is controlled by the biggest imperialist countries (like the US and Britain) and, by exercising their control, they ensure the UN pushes the interests of the big multinational companies.

In wealthy Europe and North America, industrial and nuclear waste stations, acid rain, uncontrolled road building degrades the environment. In the former degenerate workers states, grossly unsafe nuclear reactors, nuclear weapons stockpiles, and the environmentally destructive techniques applied for decades in both agriculture and industry render whole regions highly dangerous to their own inhabitants world-wide.

Environmental destruction like this will continue if the multinationals corporations continue to determine and veto environmental property.

LIVING UNDER THE OCCUPATION

eyewitness account from 3 REVO members in GAZA

Greetings, comrades, from the occupied territories.

We are still in the Gaza strip. We have just returned today from Raffa where there has been shelling and bulldozing of Palestinian homes. We stayed with a family who are members of Fatah and enjoyed the very pleasant company of the Palestinian people. I cannot describe to you how friendly most people are, and how hospitable. We have falafel on tap here and sweet tea to drink to our hearts content. For a people who have endured 54 years of suffering, injustice and bloodshed they are amazingly full of life and hope.

We were lucky that there was only some heavy machine gun fire last night, no shelling in the town, but flares were fired into the air and Israeli planes went overhead during the night. I stayed up late with Hassan and Idoa and several others eating watermelon and trying to explain how come I didn't believe in a god! I walked around late with them looking for the tanks that hang around on the outskirts of town which the kids throw stones at.

During the day we went to the children's parliament where children from all over Raffa come and discuss politics and elect a parliament. They say that it is to train the political leaders of tomorrow. I saw hope in the children, although they asked questions like "When will the UN come and help us?" and "How can the EU help the people of Palestine?" I stood up and told them not to look to the governments of the west but to look to the people of the west, and the east, north and south to come and help them and to fight alongside them. One girl, who can't have been older than 8, sang a song to us about her father who had been killed in a helicopter

attack and how she missed him. We met with the leader of Hamas for the Raffa region which was interesting, though the meeting was unproductive as he simply lied about what Hamas stood for and wanted. (Unless in the time I have been away they have become a liberal force for justice in the region!) I did manage to get him to admit to the group that he wanted an Islamic state in Palestine,



though the meeting ended before I could get him to say any more.

Today we met with the district organiser of Fatah who spoke like a true politician. Me and Billy (anarcho from the states) asked lots of questions about Fatah's support of the Oslo accords, so much that one of the ISM guys told us to 'leave him alone' and 'respect the leaders of the Palestinian people'. hmmm....

Anyway, tomorrow we go back to the well. So much here is confusion, so much is misinformation and rumour. The Palestinian people are enthusiastic about many things, but as a result of living under the occupation for so long they have learned to be suspicious and afraid. I remember last night when Hassan would not take me past a certain road

because of the snipers. He pointed to the lights at the end of road just above the horizon and said that that is where the tanks were. "When they invade 'Brazil' (the name of that refugee camp section in Raffa) they come from this road. From here they could shoot us if they want."

It is the individual stories that you hear from other people which makes it so real: the dead friends, the homeless, the hopes of a better life, the pregnant woman who had an assault rifle pointed at her belly at a checkpoint, the young boy gunned down near the border with Egypt, the children under curfew for 24 hours a day, every day in Rammallah.

Next week we may go back to Raffa to stay in the refugee camp and stop the bulldozing for a few days or we may go the West bank, Hebron, Rammallah, or Jenin. There is so much that is wrong with this place and so many places where 'martyrs' are made everyday (created by the UN sanctioned partition and the silent consensus of the occupation) that it will be a shame to leave on Friday. To leave behind the street children shouting 'money money' at our taxi; the UN donated tents - families sitting underneath staring blankly out at us as we passed by; to leave behind the checkpoints and the shelling; leave behind the prison camp of the Gaza strip or the bullet holes in Damascus gate. To leave behind the internet shop in Nuisyrat camp where young men talk on the internet, probably to family in the west bank that the Israeli state will never let them visit.

CARLO GUILIANI

Saturday the 20th of July marks the anniversary of the brutal murder a young Italian anti-capitalist activist, Carlo Guilani. He was shot in the face at point blank range and then crushed under the wheels of a police van.

Carlo, the 23-year-old son of a trade union official, was in Genoa that day to take part in a

demonstrations against the G8 summit. 300,000 people marched against the G8 in Genoa.

The protests in Genoa were a turning point for the anti-capitalist movement. The Italian state, cheered on by Blair, Bush and the other leaders of the G8 countries, had decided beforehand on a policy of trying to crush the anti-capitalist movement in Genoa.

To defend the G8, the police subjected peaceful demonstrators to savage gas attacks, baton charges, pepper spray and live bullets.

The aim of police and the Italian state was to try and terrorise, isolate and repress the thousands of anti-capitalist activists who came to Genoa. But they failed.

Carlo's murder and the repression meted out by the Italian police caused widespread anger throughout Italy. It brought 250,000 people on to the streets the next day in the biggest protest Europe had seen (at that point) against the institutions of global capitalism.

It also provoked a storm of protests at Italian embassies around the world. In the weeks after Carlo's murder tens of thousands of

people marched all over Italy and Europe.

But better still, the protests in Genoa were the starting point for the major class struggles that have taken place in Italy over the past 12 months. There has been massive protests against the war on Afghanistan, in solidarity with the Palestinians and there has been a general strike of some 12 million workers against Silvio Berlusconi's attacks on workers rights.

Calls for a public inquiry into the murder of Carlo and the police actions on the weekend of the protest were resisted, but public pressure ensured that the issue would not be swept under the carpet. A judicial investigation revealed that the police had pre-planned a number of attacks on demonstrators. This revelation to the public has so enraged the government and police that they want to end the independence of the judiciary.

The state's attempt to intimidate the anti-capitalist movement only strengthened it by winning it millions more supporters amongst the working class in Italy.

Carlo Guilani is the first martyr of the anti-capitalist movement and he must not be forgotten. On the anniversary of his death protests are being held outside Italian embassies and all over Italy.

In his memory we will continue to build and organise an international movement to defeat capitalism. **There is one solution: global revolution.**

seen in c.london

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